

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENTS

The Abstract was amended in response to the Office's objections.

A Brief Description of the Drawings was added to the specification in response to the Office's rejections.

Claims 1, 11, 13 and 14 are currently amended.

Claims 3 and 5 are original.

Claims 2, 4, 6-10, 12, 15 and 17 were previously presented.

Claim 16 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Upon entry of the amendments claims 1-15 and 17 will be active.

The amendments are supported by the claims as previously presented.

No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Manohara for indicating that claims 1-17 would be allowable if the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph are overcome.

Applicants submit that the amendments to the specification overcome the criticisms found on pages 2-4 of the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw the objections to the specifications.

Applicants submit that the drawings now comply with 37 CFR § 1.83 and that the replacement sheets comply with 37 CFR § 1.121(d).

Applicants submit that the claimed “first and second substream” are definite in light of the specification, drawings and claims. The process involves distillation apparatus and the claims make it clear that the first substream is material taken out of the bottom region of the distillation apparatus and the second substream is material taken from the top of the distillation apparatus (i.e. distillation columns C1-C3). For examples, high boilers come from the bottom and low boilers come from the top. Accordingly Applicants submit that this terminology is clear and definite.

Finally Applicants submit that the claims have been amended such that they are free of the criticisms found under items b) and c) on the bottom of page 3 of the Office Action.

In light of the remarks above, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In light of the remarks above, Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Application No.: 10/534,822

Docket No.: 12810-00085-US

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve in any way to advance the prosecution of this application, the undersigned is available at the telephone number noted below.

The Office is authorized to charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 22-0185.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 12810-00085-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: September 5, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic signature: /Donald K. Drummond,
Ph.D./

Donald K. Drummond, Ph.D.

Registration No.: 52,834

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

1875 Eye Street, NW

Suite 1100

Washington, DC 20006

(202) 331-7111

(202) 293-6229 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant